

Freedom Convoy 2022- National Capital Region 2022-01-28/2022-01-29

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Hi everyone,

As you can imagine, we are busy planning for the upcoming Freedom Convoy making it's way to the NCR this weekend. Below are some points that I thought would be of interest to you. You may already be getting some of this information but wanted to ensure we are on the same page.

I will continue to keep you informed as things evolve and as always, please don't hesitate to reach out should you have any questions.

Jolene

Cell/ Cellaire: Irrelevant

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Issue: Following the Government of Canada's announcement requiring all truck drivers crossing the border to be fully vaccinated effective 2022-01-15, planning for a national event entitled "Freedom Convoy 2022" was initiated on social media, advertising it as a fundraiser, which then gained momentum on other platforms. The convey began on 2022-01-22 in various provinces and is slated to converge on the National Capital Region (NCR) between 2022-01-28 and 2022-01-29.

Event Overview

- The mobilization of convoys commenced on 2022-01-22, across various provinces. Since 2022-01-25, there have been 19 events reported in relation to the Freedom Convoy, with the greatest activity seen in Ontario, Saskatchewan and Newfoundland. We continue to track the convoy as it's making it's way to Ottawa.
- Significant funds continue to be raised via a Go Fund Me Campaign, as of 2022-01-27, funds total \$6 M.
- According to the OPP, as of 2022-01-26 at 1600hrs, there are 471 vehicles in the convoy.
- OPP continues to track 11 different convoys currently converging in the province of Ontario and are estimating that they will arrive in the NCR on 2022-01-28 at 1530hrs.
- There are indications that some US trucks will be making an attempt to cross the border to participate in this demonstrations. CBSA has been engaged, given social media posts suggesting that convoys from the US will be crossing the border to support, and have advised that they have not seen much traction. Ongoing liaisons with CBSA will continue through until the end of the weekend.

- The details surrounding the demonstrations expected once all convoys converge on the NCR on 2021-01-29 remain unclear. The route details converge on Parliament Hill. It is unknown at this time if the group will remain on the Hill for the duration of the demonstration or if this will extend to other protected sites. Significant disruptions are expected.
- The organizing group has not made any mention of attending other locations, however, Open Source has identified multiple social media posts indicating that other groups might attempt to cause disruptions at various protected sites in the area (ie.24 Sussex, Rideau Hall and Harrington Lake).
- SQ is advising that almost 4500 people may be attending the downtown core on 2022-01-29, with 1900 people already protesting in Gatineau. They have also advised that the eastern organizers of the convoy have indicated that approximately 400 vehicles will cross over the Quebec- Ontario boarder.
- OPS has advised that, in addition to the larger demonstration in the downtown core, organizers are planning additional events on 2022-01-29 and 2022-01-30 in Confederation Park, which will serve as the home base for some participants. This includes the installation of tents, food vendors (2 trucks) and a BBQ in the Park. Public Speakers are being organized for 1100hrs on 2022-01-29 and a church service is being planned for the same time on 2022-01-30.
- While the event organizers have repeatedly stated that this will be a peaceful event, given it's size, its likely organizers will be unable to control the actions of participants.
- Open Source has identified indications that other activist and hate groups plan on participating in the demonstration, with some online chatter inciting violence and making references to the situations in Belgium and Capitol Hill.

Operational Planning

- Given the multi jurisdictional impacts of this large scale demonstration on the NCR, all key stakeholders (RCMP, OPP, OPS, PPS, SQ, MRC des Collines, the City of Ottawa, Ville de Gatineau, SPVG) are actively planning and collaborating to ensure public safety.
- The Parliamentary Protective Service (PPS) is the planning lead for the Parliamentary Precinct and the grounds of Parliament Hill, the Ottawa Police Service (OPS) is leading the planning for the National Capital Region and National Division is planning in support of our protective mandate and working to ensure that we support our law enforcement partners in the region with any specialized support services required.
- Intersect is engaged and meeting regularly.
- PPS has requested that PSPC cease all construction on the grounds of Parliament Hill and is working with the City of Ottawa/OC Transpo to explore the availability of public transportation (O Train) in the event that resources need redeployed throughout the Precinct.
- The Office of the Secretary of the GG and NCC have confirmed that they will close the grounds of Rideau Hall on 2022-01-29
- PPS will be hosting a meeting with PCO, PSPC, OPS and RCMP to ensure full coordination within the Parliamentary Precinct. The Corporate Security directorates in the Senate and the House of Commons are fully briefed and no concerns have been raised relative to the overall plans.
- Ottawa Police has signaled that preventative road closures will be affected in the downtown core, additional details to follow on these closures.
- The RCMP's National Capital Region Command Centre (NCRCC) will be activated as of 08:00 on 2022-01-28, scaling up to a full activation for 2022-01-29. The RCMP have communication

resources working out of this command center. COVID 19 protocols are in place at the NCRCC; in addition to an ample supply of PPE, contact tracing protocols, social distancing and decontamination equipment, the ability to deploy voluntary Rapid Testing exists and is being discussed.

- All key internal and external stakeholders will have a presence in the Regional Command Centre to ensure ongoing communication and collaboration. While the NCRCC will also serve as the area command centre for the RCMP, forward command centres are being stood up at alternate locations by OPS and PPS with direct linkages into the NCRCC.
- Various RCMP assets (ground and air) are being deployed and stationed to assist in providing situational awareness as the convoy converges on the NCR and to supplement protective posture, in the event that an evacuation is required at one of our protected sites. Assistance from DND is also being sought.

Communications

- Communication leads from each agency are actively engaged and collaborating to ensure consistent and accurate messaging.
- OPS Communications will lead messaging associated with the National Capital Region, PPS Communications has the lead for communications relating to the Precinct and the grounds of Parliament Hill and RCMP National Division Communications will lead messaging as it pertains to our protective mandate.
- OPS delivered a briefing to the Ottawa Police Services Board on operational planning in response to the expected convoy. It was covered by various media outlets. Briefing highlighted multi agency collaboration and that planning efforts are well under way. OPS is requesting that residents and visitors to the NCR avoid travel into the downtown core over the weekend.
- OPS issued the following Public Service Announcement at 1620 hrs 2022-01-26 (<https://www.ottawapolice.ca/Modules/News/index.aspx?lang=en&newsId=9d1c61b6-8569-4aec-8481-2f32b7f61780>) advising the public that significant traffic disruptions are to be expected in the NCR this week and that there will be a heightened police and emergency service presences in the downtown core and on major highways and roads. They're encouraging residents to follow the city's traffic management tool (@Ottawa_Traffic) for real time updates.
- The Sergeant-At-Arms has distributed an email message to MP's with Constituency offices in the NCR, advising them of the potential disruptions and the precautions that can be taken to ensure their safety. It is expected that a similar message will be distributed to all Parliamentarians and Parliamentary employees.
- Steps have been taken with OPS to convene a virtual press conference should the situation arise. Spokes for the RCMP would include the Commanding Officer for National Division, A/Commr Ches Parsons
- RCMP Media Relations Officers (MROs) are scheduled to field media calls before, during and after the protest.
- RCMP National Division Media Relations has responded to media requests from numerous media outlets, including the Globe & Mail, CBC, and Le Droit. Significant media coverage continues, with over 100 articles pertaining to the 'Freedom Convoy 2022' identified this morning.
- It is our understanding that OPS are planning a media brief tomorrow, 2022-01-28 at 11:30 hrs. Partners have been invited but at this stage, it's expected to be an OPS-only media brief.

- RCMP will be issuing internal messaging to members in the NCR to be on stand by, have their kit in order and to remind them of procedures for handling media requests, etc.
- Proactive social media is planned from all law enforcement partners in the NCS (RCMP, PPS and OPS). Common hashtags are being developed – will share once finalized.
- The RCMP have media lines prepared for a number of topics including the right to peaceful protest, the criminality of blocking bridges, our mandate in protecting the PM and GG, etc). Will share the package once finalized.